

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
**Philadelphia District Office**  
**News Update**

*A newsletter for organizations interested in U.S. immigration issues*



October 1999

Number 6

## **Green Card Renewal Procedures Published**

*Some Green Cards begin expiring in October;  
all green cards issued before 1979 have already expired*

### **The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) recently established procedures for Green Card holders to renew their expiring cards.**

INS began placing expiration dates on Green Cards (Form I-551, Alien Registration Receipt Card) in 1989 to increase the card's resistance to counterfeiting and tampering. Green Cards issued after 1989 are valid for 10 years. These cards begin expiring in October 1999. Only Green Cards with an expiration date—or all cards issued before 1979—need to be renewed at this time. You may apply to renew your card within six months of the expiration date. The following answers questions about the information and procedures for renewing Green Cards:

#### **Will I lose my permanent resident status if I do not renew my Green Card?**

No, you will not lose your permanent resident status if you do not renew your Green Card; your permanent resident status will not expire or change. However, the law requires that you carry evidence of your status/registration (for example, a valid, unexpired Green Card, or the temporary proof of status you receive at the time you file to renew your Green Card.)

#### **How do I apply to renew my Green Card?**

Complete Form I-90 "Application to Replace a Permanent Resident Card" to renew your Green Card. You can obtain this form by calling INS's toll-free forms request line 1-800-870-3676 or by accessing the INS

website at [www.ins.usdoj.gov](http://www.ins.usdoj.gov). Green Card renewal applicants within INS's Philadelphia District must submit their completed application in person. Along with the application, submit a \$110 filing fee, two photographs (as specified in the Form I-90 instructions), and your expiring Green Card.

#### **How can I obtain temporary proof of status while I wait to receive my new Green Card?**

In addition to your completed I-90 form and two passport photos, also bring your expiring Green Card and a passport, if you have one, when you visit your local

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# INS Publishes Renewal Procedures for expiring Green Cards

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INS office. If you do not have a passport, bring a third photograph so that INS can issue your temporary document (Form I-94) on-site. (\* See NOTE.)

## How long will it be before I receive my new Green Card?

Currently, it takes about 10-12 months to receive a new Green Card. Your temporary proof of status is good for one year.

## What will happen if I don't renew my expiring Green Card?

If you don't renew your expiring card, you may experience difficulties obtaining employment, benefits, and re-entry into the United States from abroad.

- Re-entry into the United States from abroad: It's best for you to apply for your new Green Card **BEFORE** you travel; on your trip, bring with you the temporary documentation you receive at the time you file to renew your Green Card. If you try to re-enter the United States with an expired Green Card, you may be delayed during the inspection process at the port-of-entry.
- Obtaining employment: Employers will not accept an expired Green Card to verify employment authorization for new hires; however, you may use other documents listed on the Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification Form), or the temporary documentation you receive at the time of filing to renew your Green Card other than a stamp placed in an expired passport. (\* See NOTE)
- Applying for benefits: Your status as a lawful permanent resident does not change if your Green Card expires. Therefore, your eligibility for benefits does not change. The temporary documentation that you receive upon filing to renew your Green Card is sufficient evidence to verify your legal status.

## What if I cannot afford the application fee, or I am ill or disabled and cannot go to my local INS office?

If you cannot afford the fee, you may request a fee waiver from INS according to standard procedures. If you are unable to appear in person because you are confined due to advanced age or physical disability, you may contact your local INS office to request accommodations.

## What should I do if my Green Card has already expired? Will the INS penalize me for renewing my card after it expired?

If your Green Card has already expired, you should apply to renew your card as soon as possible. INS will not penalize you for renewing your card after it has expired. **All Green Cards issued before 1979 have already expired.** These cards do not have actual expiration dates printed on the cards, but do have a date of issue.

[\***NOTE:** INS will stamp your expired passport; however, this is not acceptable for employment verification purposes. Employers will accept an **unexpired** stamped passport or Form I-94 with photograph, or any of the other documents listed on the Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification Form). Ensure that you notify your INS interviewing officer that you need temporary documentation for employment purposes when you visit your local INS office.]

## Green Card Renewal Summary

To renew your expiring Green Card, submit **ALL** the following documents in person to your INS office:

- INS Form I-90 (completed) [to request any INS form, call 1-800-870-3676, or visit our web site at: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>]
- Two photos (as specified in the Form I-90 instructions)
- \$110 filing fee
- Your expiring Green Card

To obtain temporary proof of your permanent resident status, submit **ONE** of the following:

- A current passport for INS to stamp, OR
- An expired passport for INS to stamp (See \*NOTE), OR
- Form I-94, with an accompanying photo (in addition to the two photos required to renew your Green Card).

# Spotlight on INS Charleston, West Virginia



**Office Name:** INS Field Office Charleston

**Address:** 210 Kanawha Blvd., Charleston, W.Va. 25302

**Phone:** Information: 304-347-5766, 304-347-5765 (fax)

Investigations: 304-347-5773

Fingerprinting: 304-347-5769

**Window Hours:** Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Officer-in-Charge:** **Supervisory Special Agent  
Frank Beverly**

**Office Services:** All immigration benefits and enforcement. Fingerprinting is available on-site by INS-scheduled appointment only. Naturalization ceremonies are conducted twice a year—spring and fall—through the local courts.

**Staff:** Eight INS employees and one contracted employee. Most of the staff employees have close family ties to the Charleston area.

**Office Information:** As mandated by the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1996, INS Charleston first opened in October 1997 into temporary offices. Two moves later, the staff now works permanently out of a newly built office building with INS as the sole occupant. The staff moved in to the new building in late April, and held an Open House for the local residents and government officials in May. The office contains two holding rooms to (two to four hours) detain criminal or illegal aliens while they're being processed. A drive-thru "sally

port" is an added safety feature of the building, allowing INS officers to load and offload without leaving the building. Criminal and illegal aliens apprehended by the Charleston office and placed in INS custody are immediately processed and transported to Pennsylvania county prisons—usually York, Pa. This low-volume office means little-to-no wait for visitors to the office.

**Service Area—Enforcement:** INS Charleston works close with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to apprehend criminal aliens. We service the following West Virginia counties: Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming.

**Service Area—Benefits:** Charleston serves the entire State of West Virginia. But call our office first before visiting if you live north of US Route 50; INS Pittsburgh may be closer for you to visit.

**Payment:** The office cannot accept cash; please use certified check or money order.

**Photographs:** Not available at INS Charleston. However, you can obtain on-the-spot photographs nearby at Charleston Towne Center Mall.

# Web Surf to Philadelphia District's New Web Site

*The District's new web site is part of INS's improved internet design*

The Philadelphia District Office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) now has its own internet web page—an information coup for those people with computer and internet access.

This could be big news for those who need phone numbers, directions or other general information after normal working hours. If used correctly, it may also mean fewer phone calls to the district office—and more time for INS employees to interview and process applications.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. The road to this 21<sup>st</sup> Century service will take time to fully inform the public—and for the public with immigration concerns to learn about and access the internet.

The District internet access will allow cyber visitors to obtain answers to lots of lingering questions, especially for the first-time visitor. How do I get to the District Office in downtown Philadelphia? Where can I get INS forms without having to go to an INS office? What's the process for paying bond for an alien in INS custody? Are photograph vendors available nearby? Answers to these and other questions are available on the net—including the names and addresses to local immigration-related service organizations.

"This is a big step to serving our immigration customers," said M. Frances Holmes, acting district director. "We've been working hard to improve our customer service, and providing our customers with timely and complete information on immigration is the highest priority item."

"Although not everyone has computer and internet access, our customers can still access our new web site through friends, schools, libraries, service organizations and immigration attorneys," Ms. Holmes continued.

Following are detailed directions to find Philadelphia's web site. Once on the internet, you're only a few clicks away from.

- Access the District's new web page directly from the INS Headquarters web page at: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>
- Click under "Field Offices" on the left side of the split screen;
- That field will open with three other files under it;
- Click on "List of INS Field Offices."
- The screen shows "INS Offices by State" and the alphabet appears near the top of the screen; click on "P" for Pennsylvania;
- Then click on "Philadelphia."

A more direct, but harder to remember, web page address to our "Welcome" site is:  
<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/fieldoffices/philadelphia/index.htm>

Click on the "About Us" section to access the District-specific information.

The combination of the INS Headquarters web page and Philadelphia's web page should provide one-stop shopping for the immigration information consumer. INS forms, fees, fingerprints, directions, phone numbers, etc.—they're all available, literally with the click of a button.

The District web page isn't in its final stage—but it never will be. It will undergo continuous changes as more information is gathered, as hot items arise and others become outdated, and as we get feedback from the public. We welcome your input to help improve the site to accommodate your needs. Please email your recommendations to [Carl.Rusnok@usdoj.gov](mailto:Carl.Rusnok@usdoj.gov). Or you can fax to: 215-656-7200.

# **Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) For Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Applicants Affected by Hurricane Mitch**

**Q: How many TPS applications did the INS receive during the registration period?**

A: As of September 27, 1999, the INS had received a total of 106,942 applications for TPS; 100,765 from Hondurans and 6,157 from Nicaraguans.

**Q: How many people have been granted TPS or issued an EAD card?**

A: As part of the application process, all TPS applicants must be fingerprinted. As of September 27, 1999, INS has fingerprinted 34,329 TPS applicants, issued 74,028 EAD employment authorization permits, and granted TPS status to 23,441 applicants.

**Q: What caused the delays in processing TPS applications?**

A: The delays in processing were caused by system problems in scheduling applicants for fingerprints and notifying the INS Service Centers that the applicant had been fingerprinted. Once these problems were discovered, INS immediately addressed the problems to prevent further delay.

**Q: What is INS doing to address issuing EADs?**

A: INS is accelerating the fingerprint process so that all applicants will be scheduled for fingerprinting by September 30, and all fingerprints will be completed by October 31, 1999. INS will issue EADs once an applicant has been fingerprinted or an application has been pending for 90 days or more, whichever happens first.

**Q: What is INS doing to protect against possible fraudulent claims for TPS?**

A: INS is committed to the timely servicing of its customers; however, vigilance over fraud remains a priority. Before issuing an EAD, Service Centers will continue to conduct INS system checks to see if the applicant has had any prior contact with the INS that would help establish nationality and date of entry. Suspect cases will continue to be forwarded to the Operations Unit for closer examination and review. Also, INS enforcement personnel will conduct random checks on applications to ensure their integrity.

**Q: How do applicants find out the status of their cases?**

A: All applicants should have been scheduled for fingerprinting by September 30. If this is not the case, applicants can contact INS using the toll free number for TPS applicants: 1-888-557-5398.

If applicants have been fingerprinted or their case has been pending for more than 90 days, they should receive an EAD shortly. If this is not the case, they can also contact INS at the above toll free number. Please note, however, that due to privacy concerns, INS can only give out status information on an EAD request over the phone. Applicants will be notified in writing regarding the status of their TPS application.

# ***Operation Provide Refuge:*** **INS Officers Show “Can Do” Spirit** **Helping Kosovo Refugees**

The Kosovo crisis appeared and disappeared here in the United States so quickly that many Americans may have found it difficult to grasp the circumstances of the Kosovars' refugee status. Although everyone understands the genocidal terror that caused the Kosovars to flee their homes, fewer people know the circumstances of what happened to a refugee once he or she arrived in the U.S.—and how INS personnel demonstrated their compassion, flexibility and expertise.

**INS was first notified  
about the refugee plans  
only four days before the  
first plane's arrival.**

The screening process started in the refugee camps overseas, especially those in Macedonia. Representatives from the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees and the U.S. Department of State screened individuals destined to come to the United States. The U.S.-bound refugees were separated into two groups: 1) those who have family living in the U.S., and 2) priority cases who have no U.S. relatives but are considered vulnerable—such as single mothers, and those with medical conditions—and their families.

The first group of refugees were fully processed overseas—as are most refugees—and flown to Kennedy International Airport in New York City. To relieve the overcrowding in the refugee camps, the second group was only partially processed overseas; refugees from this group flew into McGuire Air Force Base and then were bused to the adjacent Fort Dix Army base—both in southern New Jersey. The first planeload arrived May 5 with more than 400 refugees aboard. Refugee processing was completed here at Ft. Dix.

“It was a media zoo here when the first plane arrived,” said Henry Brattlie, INS's officer-in-charge of Operation Provide Refuge. “There were more than 150 media representatives from all over the world covering the event.”

Fort Dix quickly reacted to news of the upcoming refugees by renovating vacant Army barracks to accommodate the Kosovo families. Many soldiers and base employees worked around the clock to prepare the facilities—with only a few days notice.

INS was first notified about the refugee plans only four days before the first plane's arrival. INS immediately made arrangements to get volunteers from throughout the country to help staff Ft. Dix. Inspectors, security officers and asylum officers were especially needed. In addition, INS also contracted for additional security and translators from private agencies. Computers, equipment, communications arrangements—all and more were required to assemble a refugee-processing center at the Army base. INS Philadelphia sent more than 20 people over the course of the three-month operation; almost 300 INS personnel participated in all.

Before getting off the plane, translators briefly described what the refugees should expect. After the 10-minute ride, everyone received a box lunch and beverages as they departed the bus and entered the gym. The Ft. Dix gymnasium was fully prepared for weary trav-



# INS Helps Kosovar Refugees at Fort Dix, N.J.

(cont'd from previous page)

elers—lots of strollers for the children, along with games, a large-screen TV, and other amusements. The gymnasium provided an ideal setting with room to relax, while families could still be in sight of one another. INS was especially sensitive to avoid separating family members. This initial processing—to take photographs, issue ID cards and make room assignments—took four hours for each refugee planeload. Each refugee received a photo ID badge color coded to the dormitory they were assigned. Dormitory doors were painted to minimize confusion among the identically built buildings.

While the refugees were in the gym waiting for their room assignments, they were first warmly welcomed to the United States through a translator. The First Lady, Hillary Rodham-Clinton, welcomed the first plane of refugees. During the course of their stay, the refugees were visited by U.S. Congressmen, Senators, the Governor of New Jersey, INS Commissioner Doris Meissner, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), Donna Shalala. HHS was overall in charge of coordinating the Ft. Dix refugee operation. Ms. Shalala visited Ft. Dix as the facility was winding down. After her visit, she attended a luncheon with the INS Commissioner and shouted to her from across the crowded room: “HHS Loves INS.”

Since the Ft. Dix refugees hadn't been fully processed overseas, the base area known as “The Village” acted as a holding facility—complete with dormitories, dining facilities, playground, a small store, infirmary, and gym. The processing included interviews with thoroughly trained INS asylum officers. As the Kosovars were being processed—a system which averaged about four weeks—members of the Joint Volunteer Agencies (JVA) searched for local sponsoring agencies and mentoring families throughout the U.S. to help the Kosovo refugees adjust to the U.S. culture. JVA is a consortium of nine non-governmental national organizations contracted by the Department of State.

To accommodate the intense demand for media exposure—while at the same time honoring the need for

the privacy of the refugees—the playground area of The Village was opened to escorted media during specific times of the day. Refugees who wanted to be interviewed could make themselves available to media representatives on this open field. Otherwise, the refugees were able to live relatively private lives in their temporary quarters.

Despite rumors to the contrary, however, the refugees were not put on the fast track to U.S. citizenship. Once fully processed, the refugees had (and still have) the option of staying in the U.S. After one year, they can apply for a permanent resident or “green” card which

**“HHS Loves INS!”**

**Donna Shalala,  
U.S. Health and Human  
Services Secretary**

allows them to live and work in the U.S. indefinitely. After they have their green cards for five years, then they can apply for U.S. citizenship. This is the same process all aspiring citizens follow.

Of the 4,041 Kosovo refugees who arrived in Ft. Dix, many of them have already returned to their homeland since the cessation of hostilities. The International Organization for Migration calculates that 2,002 Kosovars returned from the U.S.; however this figure includes both groups of refugees—those who arrived in Ft. Dix and Kennedy International Airport.

*(cont'd on page 12)*

# INS Philadelphia Completes 35% More Naturalization Cases Than Last Year

The Philadelphia District of the Immigration and Naturalization Service completed more than 19,000 applications for naturalization in the fiscal year that just ended September 30—almost a 35 percent increase over FY 98 figures (14,093). INS Philadelphia surpassed its goal of 17,600 by almost 8 percent.

According to Isabel Lindemuth, Supervisory District Adjudication Officer for Naturalization, September was the busiest month by far, with INS Philadelphia's Office naturalized 2,584 immigrants to become U.S. citizens.

**INS Philadelphia's District Office naturalized 2,584 immigrants in September.**

**Isabel Lindemuth,**  
Supervisory District Adjudication  
Officer for Naturalization

"Twelve hundred naturalizations is a high month," she said. "However, we accomplished more than double that."

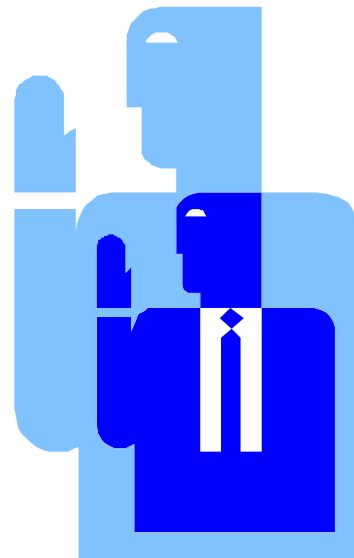
The aggressive naturalization schedule is part of a nationwide promotion to significantly reduce the backlog of naturalization applicants. Three years ago, the processing time to naturalize in the Philadelphia District was only six months. Today, it now takes about 11 months to process an application—from the time it's submitted, to the actual naturalization ceremony oath. However, in some INS districts, the wait is well over two years.

INS attributes the backlog to a number of factors: First, an unprecedented number of naturalization applications—perhaps triggered by tightening U.S. Immigration laws, such as the enactment of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1996. The second major factor owing to the larger backlog is INS's increased emphasis on quality control.

Up until September, Lindemuth says July was the year's biggest naturalization month with 1,849—"and we naturalized almost 1,000 that month in one Independence Week ceremony," she said.

"The 43 naturalization ceremonies in September have been overwhelming," continued Lindemuth. We've had to make sure every [naturalization] certificate in every ceremony was ready to go. There's tremendous attention required to every detail."

Lindemuth said that 20 ceremonies in one month is a very high number for INS Philadelphia. "I'm amazed at the amount of work we accomplished," she said. However, even though seven officers, three INS clerks, and six contracted clerks were assigned to the naturalization backlog, many others helped in one way or another. It really was a team effort.





# The President Authorizes Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced September 30 it will defer for one year the deportation or removal of certain qualified Liberians present in the United States. This announcement came in response to President Clinton's authorizing Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for qualified Liberians until September 29, 2000.

Under DED, approximately 10,000 Liberians in the United States as of September 29, 1999, will be protected from removal for one year and will be authorized to work in the United States.

**DED is automatic for qualified Liberians, regardless of age. However, applicants who need to show work authorization evidence must apply.**

Since 1991, most Liberians present in the United States have resided here under repeated extensions of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), a form of protection offered when conditions in a country are determined to be too dangerous or unstable for its nationals to safely return. TPS ended for Liberians September 28, 1999. However, the President determined that for foreign policy reasons, protection from removal should be extended for another year.

DED is automatic for qualified Liberians, regardless of age. However, applicants who need to show

work authorization evidence must apply. To obtain employment authorization, qualified Liberian nationals need to file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, and Form I-765D, "Liberian DED Supplemental to Form I-765", at the District Office that has jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence.

To qualify for DED, Liberians must have been in the United States since September 29, 1999. The word "present" means no absences from the United States after September 29, 1999; or, if there were absences since that date: 1) the total time period of such absences does not exceed 180 days, and 2) for each absence, the Liberian either returned to the United States with advance parole, or was inspected and admitted to the United States.

In addition, applicants must submit a copy of the following documentation, if available, to establish their eligibility for work authorization: Form I-94, Arrival Departure Record; their last Employment Authorization Document (EAD); a photo ID, such as a passport, driver's license or identity card or a school identification card. Applicants must submit all application materials to the INS District Office that has jurisdiction over their place of residence.

If these documents are not available, applicants may submit an affidavit affirming they are a nationals of Liberia, have been present in the United States as of September 29, 1999, and are eligible for DED. An INS interview process will determine eligibility. All applicants must submit two photographs with their application.

The filing fee for submitting an EAD application is waived for DED recipients. However, all applicants will be required to submit the standard \$25 fingerprinting fee.

DED status is automatic for qualified Liberians. However, there are exceptions to eligibility under this program, including: those who have committed certain crimes, persecutors, and those who have previously been deported, excluded or removed.

# INS Philadelphia District Offices

**Ask Immigration Toll-Free Telephone Number: 800-375-5283**

**To Request Forms, call: 800-870-3676**

**Internet website (for INS forms and information): <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>**

*(access INS Philadelphia from the "Field Offices" section)*

## INS Philadelphia District Offices

### INS Philadelphia District Office ♦

1600 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130  
215-656-7178 – Exams, 215-656-7095 (fax)  
215-656-7195 – Investigations  
215-656-7164 – Detention & Deportation  
Window Hours: M-W & F — 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Th — 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

### INS Pittsburgh Suboffice

2130 Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4181  
412-395-4465 – Exams, 412-395-6375 (fax)  
Window Hours: M, Tu, Th & F — 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
W — 9 - 11 a.m.

### INS Dover Field Office

1305 McD Drive, Dover, DE 19901  
302-730-9311, 302-730-9310 (fax)  
Window Hours: M-F — 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### INS Charleston Field Office

210 Kanawha Blvd.W., Charleston, WV 25302  
304-347-5766, 304-347-5765 (fax)  
Window Hours: M-F — 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**INS Fingerprints** – Fingerprints are taken only by INS, and by appointment only — after submitting an application for benefits with the application fee and a \$25 fingerprinting fee. **Nationwide hours of operation:** Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Wed. & Fri.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat.: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Application Support Centers (ASCs) – Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Philadelphia – 8th & Arch Sts. (enter from 8th St.)
- Pittsburgh – 800 Penn Ave., 1st Floor

**Co-located INS Fingerprinting Offices – Hours:** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Charleston, WV – 912 Virginia St.
- Dover, DE – 1305 McD Drive

## INS Philadelphia Application Processing Times – September 1999

*(Times reflect applications which include all required documentation.)*

**Notes:**

Application Name and Form Number	Processing Times	
	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Naturalization (N-400)</b>	11 months	11 months
Adjustment of status (I-485)	Note 1	Note 1
<b>Orphan Petitions (I-600) and Advance Processing Application for Orphans (I-600A)</b>	3 weeks	3 weeks
	6 weeks	2 months
Certificate of Citizenship (N-600)	7 months	6 months
<b>Certificate of Citizenship for an adopted Child (N-643)</b>	2 months	6 months
Replacement Certificate of Naturalization (N-565)	Note 2	Note 2

1. **Adjustment of status applications filed on or after June 1, 1998 are on hold nationwide.** There is a temporary backlog of some gov't agencies processing name checks. Philadelphia is scheduling interviews 3 1/2 months —Pittsburgh Sub-Office 6 months— from date of receipt; however, the general hold still applies. Philadelphia eventually plans to reduce times back to four months.

2. One to six months, depending if the file is in INS Phila., or is immediately retrievable from another INS office.

# INS Philadelphia Criminal Removals Increase 88% from FY 98

*Changes in criminal and non-criminal removals  
attributed to TPCR's end last October*

The District had a banner year in deporting criminal aliens from the United States, according to initial and unofficial figures from INS Philadelphia. In fiscal year (FY) 1999, which ended September 30, the latest figures show that the district deported 904 criminal aliens. The same statistics from FY '98 show 482 removals—indicating an increase this year of almost 88 percent. By contrast, the District removed only 694 non-criminal aliens from the U.S.—as opposed to 1,668 from the previous year.

What's the reason for the drastic differences in deportation figures for both criminal and non-criminal aliens? "There was a major change in INS priorities to removing criminal aliens in FY 99," said M. Frances Holmes, INS Philadelphia acting district director.

"Last October the Transition Period Custody Rules or TPCR ended. Congress granted TPCR which allowed INS a two-year grace period before detaining certain criminal aliens."

After TPCR ended, INS had to step up its criminal removals just to make room for new detainees arriv-

"After TPCR ended, INS had to step up its criminal removals just to make room for new detainees arriving."

**M. Frances Holmes**  
Acting District Director

ing," Ms. Holmes added. As a higher detainee priority, criminal aliens also took up most of the prison space INS Philadelphia had used for non-criminal aliens—especially those aliens apprehended during worksite enforcement operations.

"We're pleased that we've been able to increase the number of criminal aliens removed from the U.S.—so they can no longer commit crimes in this country," Ms. Holmes concluded.

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## Personnel Changes at INS Philadelphia

**J. Scott Blackman** has been detailed from his District Director position in Philadelphia to act as INS's Eastern Regional director in South Burlington, Vt. INS Philadelphia Deputy District Director **M. Frances Holmes** is now acting district director.

INS Philadelphia has hired a permanent secretary for our district director's front office. **Chris Miller** just arrived from the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, in the northeastern section of the city.

**William Lowder** has been temporarily promoted to Supervisory Special Agent in Investigations to take over for **Linda Valentine** who is on maternity leave.

**Donald T. Monica**, Philadelphia's assistant district director for examinations, has accepted a new position as officer-in-charge of INS's Moscow office. He expects to transfer in late October.

**Kristin Falcone** has been filling in as Philadelphia's Congressional Liaison while **Kathy Bausman** is on maternity leave. Kathy expects to return in January.

**Robert Culley** and **John Lawton** are two relatively new faces to the Allenwood Federal Penitentiary. Mr. Culley is INS's new Institutional Hearing Program Director; Mr. Lawton is the new supervisory detention and deportation officer.

# Operation Provide Refuge: INS Helps Kosovar Refugees

(cont'd from page 7)

In recognition of the superlative efforts of the INS employees who participated in *Operation Provide Refuge*, Henry Brattlie coordinated an awards ceremony in INS Philadelphia's Naturalization Courtroom. Mr. Brattlie is the associate regional director for INS's Eastern Regional Office (ERO), and was INS's officer-in-charge of Operation Provide Refuge. Also attending were J. Scott Blackman, acting ERO director, and Jorge Velasquez, Director of Operations for Health and Human Services at Operation Provide Refuge.

Mr. Velasquez praised the INS staff who worked tirelessly at Ft. Dix. "We look forward to working with INS in the future," he said at the ceremony. In addition to praising INS's Ft. Dix staff, Mr. Blackman noted that we shouldn't forget the workers who stayed behind in the districts to staff the fort and continue the business of providing INS benefits and enforcement locally—and with significantly reduced staffs. He also expressed great pride in the wonderful job INS's Ft. Dix staff accomplished with such little advance notice.

Fort Dix officially closed *Operation Provide Refuge* on July 16, 1999.

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INS's *News Update* is an unofficial publication of the

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Philadelphia District Office at 1600 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130. *News Update* is published at least four times annually for congressional staffs – and others interested in U.S. immigration.

Readers with inquiries or requests may call the Editor at 215-656-7171, or fax your suggestions to 215-656-7200.

**M. Frances Holmes, Acting District Director**

Carl Rusnok, Editor

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